

Permit No. 875-1401 currently authorizes the harassment of several species of marine mammals during the conduct of research to study the effects of low-frequency sound produced by the Navy's Surface Towed Array Surveillance System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) system on the behavior of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) feeding in the Southern California Bight during September/October of 1997 and/or 1998. An amendment to the Permit to conduct playback experiments on gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) migrating along the central California coast during January 1998 is in final review.

Dr. Clark is now requesting that the Permit be amended to provide for the conduct of playback experiments using the SURTASS LFA sound source to study behavioral responses of breeding and nursing humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and foraging sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in Hawaii during February-April of 1998. Individuals of several other cetacean, pinniped, and sea turtle species may be taken (*i.e.*, by harassment or auditory temporary threshold shift) during the proposed experiments.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a draft EA examining the environmental consequences of issuing the requested amended permit has been prepared. Based upon this draft EA, NMFS has preliminarily concluded that issuance of the requested permit will not have a significant effect on the human environment.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797D]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 965 (P66J)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, has requested an amendment to permit no. 965.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by email or other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to permit no. 965, issued on June 19, 1995 (60 FR 34233) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Permit no. 965 authorizes the permit holder to: to take a maximum of 125 Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by trapping, darting, sampling, and gas anesthesia (including a maximum of 20 by recapture for follow-up blood sampling and removal of instruments); a maximum of 400 Steller pups over 6 months old by hand capture, gas

anesthesia, and marking; a maximum of 10,000 Stellers by harassment during the course of capturing suitable animals; a maximum of 15 Stellers by unintentional mortality during the course of capture and chemical immobilization and salvaged specimens of stranded animals, premature pups, and mortalities associated with this and other research activities. The holder is also authorized to take up to 30 rehabilitated California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) by injection with experimental immobilization drugs and a maximum of 3 for unintentional mortality. All takes will be over a 5-year period.

The permit holder requests amendment to the permit for: Underwater capture of 10 additional (25 total) juvenile Steller sea lions through use of a leash around their necks, with the opposite end of the leash attached to a buoy at the surface; and use of diazepam, xylazine, or medetomidine as a sedative with either flumazenil, tolazoline, or atipamezole as the reversal agent.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33475 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 30, 1998.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, DC, 9th Fl. Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 97-33628 Filed 12-19-97; 2:36 pm]

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